

KUE I KA NOHO HEWA MA HAWAII NEI
MORATORIUM ON MILITARY EXPANSION IN HAWAII NEI
OAHU

In the late afternoon of January 17, 1893, as Queen Lili‘uokalani issued her formal protest against the illegal overthrow of her constitutional government, she was confronted by the armed force of the United States, assembled in a threatening storm from the decks of the U.S. naval cruiser Boston. She yielded her authority under protest, to avoid the spilling of her people’s blood in a battle with the American forces.

In the ensuing one hundred and eleven years, the United States has amassed an even greater force in Hawaii, with more than 245,000 acres of our homeland occupied by the military, including one-quarter of the island of Oahu. 54% of the land used by the military is the national lands of our sovereign heritage, to which we have never ceded our control or responsibility. The United States military utilizes these extensive lands without compensation to our people, nor regard for the environmental or health effects of their militarization.¹

The litany of names of burial sites, wahi pana, and one hanau which are directly affected by the military includes the sacred peaks of Mauna Kea, Haleakala, Kaala, Kalena, and Kokee; the fishing sanctuaries of Puuloa, Waimomi, and Nuupia; the sands of Waimanalo and Nohili; the valleys of Kahauiki, Makua, Lualualei, Kawaihoa, and Waikane; the peninsulas of Mokapu and Kalaeloa; the plains of Pohakuloa and Leilehua; and the moku of Kahoolawe and Kaula-i-ke-kai.

Aina is at the heart of our lives as the people of this land, the people who have lived in this place since time immemorial, and who love the land as one of our own blood and family. We have a permanent and irrevocable obligation to guard and protect this land, and to ensure the health and well-being of our families and neighbors.

It is thus for the life of our land, and for the health of our people, that we, the signatories below, together speak with one voice in calling for a moratorium on the increased militarization of our homeland. We demand the cessation of military expansion, and for the clean up, restoration, and return of all the ‘aina. We call for the billions of dollars dedicated to military expansion in Hawaii to be redirected to environmental clean up and community-based economic alternatives based on human needs. Finally, the United States military must remit just compensation for the use and damage of our homelands.

¹ Article 28 of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples specifies that ‘military activities shall not take place in the lands and territories of indigenous peoples, unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned.’